

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 /092 W

-----151145Z 046868 /11

R 150935Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6835

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0686

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONCERN AT TURNHALLE DEADLOCK

REF: (A) PRETORIA 640, (B) CAPE TOWN 214

1. FAILURE AT TURNHALLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ENFORCEMENT OF BILL OF RIGHTS RESULTED IN SEVERAL PRESS COMMENTARIES BY POLITICAL ANALYSTS IN LAST FEW DAYS. SUNDAY EXPRESS POLITICAL ANALYST MARTIN SCHNEIDER WROTE FEBRUARY 13 UNDER HEADLINE "MAN WHO WANTS HIS OWN GARDEN OF EBEN" THAT EBAN VAN ZIJL HAD BROUGHT CONFERENCE TO "BRINK OF COLLAPSE" THIS WEEK FOR SIMPLE REASON THAT HE AND HIS SUPPORTERS REFUSE TO SHARE THIS REMARKABLE LAND (NAMIBIA) WITH ITS 750,000 BLACKS AND COLORED INHABITANTS." THIS IS FRUSTRATING BLACK MODERATES, AND MAY DRIVE THEM INTO SWAPO'S ARMS. SCHNEIDER UNCLASSIFIED

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ENUMERATES THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH TURNHALLE BLACKS HAVE SIGNALLED MODERATION AND DESIRE NOT TO ALARM WHITE POPULATION. HE NOTES THAT ETHNIC DIVISIONS REMAIN IN MANY WAYS, BUT DRAFT CONSTITUTION IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO MOVE AWAY FROM ETHNICITY. SCHNEIDER CONCLUDES THAT WITHOUT EBEN VAN ZIJL, NAMIBIA COULD BECOME A MODEL FOR ALL AFRICA: WITH HIS INSISTENCE FOR APPEASEMENT OF CONSERVATIVES, IT COULD BECOME A NIGHTMARE.

2. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED BLACKS AND BROWN DELEGATES WERE DISMAYED, BUT NOT SURPRISED, AT EBEN VAN ZIJL'S INSISTENCE THAT BILL OF RIGHTS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS GUIDANCE BUT NOT LAW. UNDERLYING FEAR IS THAT BY CREATING STELEMATE IN TURNHALLE ON THIS ISSUE, VAN ZIJL WILL IN FACT SUCCEED IN THROWING ISSUE OF CONSTITUTION BACK TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER. AWARE OF VORSTER'S TOUGH LINE SUPPORTING APARTHEID POLICIES IN SOUTH AFRICA, BLACKS AND BROWNS FEEL THAT ANY CONSTITUTION VORSTER MIGHT "GIVE" TO NAMIBIA WOULD CORRESPOND WITH HIS CONSERVATIVE POLICIES, THUS FRUSTRATING LIBERAL TENDENCIES IN NAMIBIA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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